

Rights of Way of the Town of Rockport
Minutes of the Meeting of July 18, 2016
Rockport Town Hall
Approved Minutes

The meeting called to order at 7:07 PM, Tom Kerans presiding.

Members Present:

Tom Kerans, Mary Devaney, Lori Morrow, Phil Morrow, Tom Mikus

Members Absent:

Jill Solomon

Attendees: Phyllis Krenn, Ted Tarr

Previous Minutes

Minutes of June 27, 2016 were reviewed and minor corrections made.
Motion to approve was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Work on Atlantic Path

The work for the MA Fisheries Grant has been completed as contracted.
A walk to observe the work was organized by Dr. John Ratti, DCR naturalist at Halibut Point. Attendees met at the Halibut Point parking lot at 1:00 PM, Sunday, July 17, 2016. Ramona Latham represented the Trustees, Lori M. the Rights of Way committee. Lori reported that Halibut officials were very pleased with the work and praised the Rights of Way Committee for their efforts. It was reported that Dr. Sayre, Mr. Cobb, and Mr. Cagnina were pleased with the work.

Tom Kerans visited the path on his own and reported that Matt Natti installed attractive cairns at various points to mark the path. These have been secured.

Funds from the Department of MA Fisheries to pay for the work have been received by the town.

Tom Kerans suggested we place signage on the path to urge respect for neighbors. It was agreed that a sign at each end of the path might be effective. Tom K. will contact the abutters and ask them to attend the next meeting to see if they like the idea.

Essex County Greenbelt places signs on their properties. Mary offered to contact Ed Becker of ECGA to get details.

Establishing rights before doing trail work

There was some confusion with abutters when Matt Natti took his crew to work on the Atlantic Path. Discussion resulted in the decision to, when possible, have a ROW member accompany a work crew. It was suggested that relevant documentation be brought to guarantee clear communication with abutters.

Focus on Cathedral Avenue

Signs discouraging passage have not been taken down. Mary Devaney reported that Matt Barrett, GIS Program Manager for the town, stated that putting *no trespassing* signs on established roads is illegal, even if the roads are categorized as private. Public access cannot be blocked.

Mary D., Tom M., and Phil M. will be meeting with Matt to get an overview of his work compiling ROW information. We will ask for clarification of the situation at Cathedral Avenue and determine town enforcement procedures.

Going Green

To save paper, a motion to stop printing agendas was made, seconded and passed unanimously. In the future, agendas will be posted on the town website and projected on a screen at meetings.

Captains Reports Old Garden Beach

Complaints have been received by the ROW from abutters.

1. Another rainbow graffiti image has been painted on the rocks.
2. There continue to be problems with persons who do not pick up after their dogs.
3. Some hikers are not respecting the property of abutters and are sitting on their walls and littering.

Suggestions were made to:

1. Contact the DPW regarding a trash bin.
2. Contact the Board of Health regarding regulations for disposal of dog waste.
3. Contact the police for enforcement of regulations.
4. Research helpful signage.
5. Try to determine who is leaving the dog waste. Members observed that one or two offenders visiting an area every day can totally foul a footpath.

Discussion resulted in unanimous agreement that the Committee should make every effort to support respectful use of Rights of Way. This includes contacting the DPW, the Police, the Board of Health, and researching signage options.

Reeds Lane

Complaints have been received that abutters continue to dump landscaping debris on Reeds Lane. A four or five feet tall pile is narrowing the public road and partially blocking the path.

Since dumping on town property is illegal, the matter will be referred to the town administrator for action.

Management Report

Because the new fiscal year just started, no report was generated.

New Business**Old Business**

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

**Next Meeting: Monday August 22, 2016
7:00 PM Town Hall Conference Room A**

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Devaney
Secretary**